

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 16 and 18 are amended, claim 17 is canceled and claim 31 is added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 17, 18 and 25 contain allowable subject matter.

I. The Specification Satisfies Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to this disclosure because of an informality. Accordingly, the specification is amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claim 18 because "the cover layer" lacks antecedent basis. Accordingly, claim 18 is amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

III. The drawings satisfy 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a)

The Office Action asserts on page 2 that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the second convex part recited in claims 26 and 27 is not shown in the drawings. This assertion is respectfully traversed.

The feature, second convex part, is the same as the feature, "upper surface of the convex part." See, e.g., at least paragraph [0021]. Accordingly, the upper surface of the convex part is represented by reference number 12a. See, e.g., at least paragraph [0080]. The upper surface 12a can be seen at least in Figs. 6, 29 and 31a-31b. Thus, the feature of the second convex part is shown in the drawings. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 16, 19-24, 26 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,065,881 to Okada et. al.; and claims 1-15 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is unpatentable over Okada.

A. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

The Office Action asserts that Okada discloses a convex part, as recited in claim 16. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 16 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17, and thus claim 16 and the claims dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

The Office Action further asserts on page 4 that Okada discloses an optical waveguide that includes a second convex part parallel with the first convex part, as recited in claim 26. This assertion is respectfully traversed.

Instead, Okada discloses two optical transmission terminals, 21 and 22, wherein the optical transmission line depicts an arc. Further, Okada does not disclose the covering layer that covers an optical waveguide part and is provided in part on an upper surface of the second convex part, as recited in claim 26. Instead, Okada discloses the end part of the second optical transmission terminal coated with cover layer at col. 19, line 65-col. 20, line 6. Thus, Okada does not disclose the optical waveguide as recited in claim 26. Thus, claim 26 and the dependent claim therefrom do not anticipate Okada. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

B. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Office Action asserts on page 5 that Okada discloses an optical apparatus that includes a first convex part 21 provided in a substrate 1, 2, an optical waveguide part 40 provided on the upper surface of the first convex part, a second convex part 22 disposed in parallel with the first convex part, and a covering layer 20c that covers an optical guide part

and is provided in part on the upper surface of the second convex part as in invention of claim 20. However, the Office Action recognizes that Okada does not disclose the method of manufacturing an optical guide as an invention of claims 1 and 9. The Office Action further asserts that the claimed invention is in the counter part of the apparatus claim and thus, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to develop a particular method for the apparatus of Okada. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

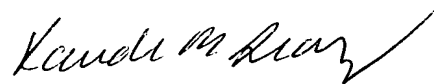
Okada discloses an optical transmission line as formed by a forming material that is in a fluid condition that has solidified during formation or after formation thereof. The optical transmission line forming an apparatus includes a nozzle that ejects a coagulative optical transmission line forming tool in the fluid condition. See Okada at, e.g., col. 3, line 53-col. 4, line 48. Okada, however, does not disclose distortion droplets onto an upper surface of a convex part to form a precursor of an optical waveguide part as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 9. Thus, claims 1 and 9 and the dependent claims therefrom are not rendered obvious in view of Okada. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 and 18-31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

JAO:RBI/fpw

Date: December 20, 2004

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